The total investment in the above joint ventures is estimated at approximately Rs. 8017 crores. There has been no proposal for joint venture in other segments of the automobile industry in the recent past.

(e) Manufacture of automotive vehicles including car has been delicensed under the New Industrial Policy. Most indigenous manufacturers of cars have entered into joint ventures with foreign companies.

Dog Squads in defence forces

2625. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dog Squads deployed in the Defence forces;

(b) the areas they are mostly used in; and

(c) the amount spent in training, food and other expenses like medicines of upkeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 12 Dog Units comprising 10 Units of 24 Dogs each and two Units of 12 Dogs each are deployed in Army.

(b) The Army Dog Units are used in Counter Insurgency, mine detection, avalanche rescue operation, guarding vital installations, tracking, infantry patrolling etc.

(c) The recurring cost of maintenance a Dog Unit (of 24 Dogs) is about Rs. 27 lakh per annum.

Power Plants on Garbage by NRI

2626. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any NRI business man has proposed to set up power plants based on garbage in some selected cities in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on this proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Some NRIs have shown interest to set up power plants based on Garbage in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. However, detailed project proposals have not been received so far. They are in the process of finalising sites and tie-ups with the concerned agencies.

Un-manned level crossings

2627. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of un-manned level crossings still existing in the country;

(b) whether any Railway accidents took place at the un-manned level crossings during this year; and

(c) by when the above un-manned level crossings are expected to be converted to manned level crossings equipped with the necessary telecommunication facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) 21267.

(b) 31 accidents took place at un-manned Level Crossings during this year.

(c) Manning of unmanned level crossings, except identified vulnerable ones, is taken up at the request of State Govts. and at their cost. Manning can, therefore, be done as and when the State Govts. make proposals, placing necessary funds with the Railways.

Amendment of NHB Act

2628. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: